LEDGER AND TRANSCRIPT

Philadelphia, Saturday, Dec. 29, 1894.

THE LATEST NEWS.

President Cleveland has approved an act for the relief of the legal representatives of James C. Booth, deceased, who, when Melter and Refiner in the Philadelphia Mint, lost, through no fault of his own, three silver bars, for which safe storage could not be provided, for want of vault capacity at the Mint.

Sunday Press

A CAREFUL OFFICIAL.

Congress to Do Justice to the Heirs of a Faithful Employee of the Philadelphia Mint.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—A report made by the Senate Committee on Finance, upon the bill for the relief of the heirs of James C. Booth, shows a record of efficiency and carefulness in a public official seldom equalled.

From this report it appears that Professor James C. Booth was appointed melter and refiner of the Mint at Philadelphia, in 1849, and continued to serve in that capacity until the date of his death, March 23, 1888. During this time Mr. Booth handled large amounts of both gold and silver bullion. During the fiscal year 1885 he refined 6,466,269 standard ounces of gold bullion, with a wastage of only 7.9 ounces, and 28,936,070 standard ounces of silver bullion with an apparent wastage of 2351 ounces.

In that year three bars of silver weighing 1980 ounces were stolen, an occurrence which the melter and refiner could not prevent, but, being technically liable therefor, Professor Booth replaced the bars by purchasing them in the open market. It is to pay his heirs the amount he paid for these bars that the bill was introduced. The committee agrees with Director of the Mint Leech that the relief asked for should be granted. Mr. Leech, in a letter to the committee, says:—

"From July 1, 1874, to March 23, 1888, Professor Booth, as Melter and Refiner of the Mint, handled 31,255,534 ounces of gold bullion, of the value of $581,498,309, on which the legal allowance for wastage, under section 3542 of the Revised Statutes, would be $581,498.31, while the actual wastage was only $58,137. He handled of silver bullion during this time 341,940,331 ounces, of which the coining value in silver dollars was $397,894,401. The legal allowance for wastage on this would be $586,841, while the amount actually wasted was only $14,565."

Jan. 10 1892